United Nations A/C.5/55/33

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 December 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Fifth Committee
Agenda item 123
Human resources management

Letter dated 15 December 2000 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you, for appropriate action by the Fifth Committee, a letter dated 11 December 2000 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (see annex).

(*Signed*) Harri **Holkeri**

00-80161 (E) 161200

Annex

Letter dated 11 December 2000 from the Permanent Mission of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly and, upon instructions from Mr. Iaia Djalo, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has the honour to hereby request your assistance on an issue of utmost concern to our delegation.

Because of the seriousness and the urgency of the matter, and since we were unable to participate fully in the deliberations when the issue was debated, the delegation of Guinea-Bissau would like to revisit an item that is currently under discussion in the Fifth Committee. That is, administration of justice in the United Nations.

In one of our previous statements before the Fifth Committee, we mentioned the injustices suffered by the Republic of Guinea-Bissau as far as representation among the staff of the Secretariat is concerned. Because, to us, this is an issue of national interest, against our normal practice, the delegation of Guinea-Bissau would again like to express here its deep concern over the treatment to which our only national working for the United Nations Secretariat has been subjected by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Management within its internal justice system.

While we do not intend to make the discussion of the details of this unfortunate case a part of the work of the Fifth Committee itself, as an alternative to needless and costly litigation, we wish to request the Committee to ask the Department of Management to carefully review this case, in strict observance of due process, of respect for the relevant United Nations rules and regulations and of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, without delay. However, should the Department of Management not wish to do so, my delegation would then like to urge the Department to meet immediately with the staff member concerned and his representatives to discuss the facts leading to the decision being contested as soon as possible.

As part of this exercise and as a matter of transparency, we wish to emphasize the absolute need for independent parties to be present at such meeting, namely representatives of the Fifth Committee, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Joint Inspection Unit and the Staff Committee, to observe the proceedings. Since, as you will see, this is a very unusual case, we wish to have such a meeting on record.

If the parties are unable to settle the case by these means, in the absence of any provisions barring such action, and should the Committee deem it appropriate, my delegation would then like to suggest that, in the light of the several statements made before the Fifth Committee over the past few weeks by the Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit, it may be useful indeed to have the staff member concerned address the Committee on the full details of this complex case. While it is not our intention to get involved in the day-to-day management of the Organization, we must not forget that the Member States are the United Nations. As such, whatever

happens here is our business. At issue in this particular case is the fundamental question of respect for the rule of law, due process and administration of justice, which we believe should be fair, just and equitable for all inside this unique Organization.

The Permanent Mission of Guinea-Bissau would very much appreciate it if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly and its contents brought to the attention of the relevant body for consideration.

United Nations A/C.5/55/34

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 December 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Fifth Committee
Agenda item 117
Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates falling under the guidelines for the contingency fund contained in the annex to resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987 is herewith submitted. It amounts to $16,138,400, as detailed in the annex to the present report. The amounts indicated in respect of each item correspond to those previously recommended by the Fifth Committee upon its consideration of individual statements and proposals for revised estimates.

2. In its resolution 53/206 of 18 December 1998, the General Assembly decided that the level of the contingency fund for the biennium 2000-2001 should be set at the level of $19.1 million. The balance of the contingency fund for the biennium 2000-2001, as indicated in Assembly resolution 54/251 of 23 December 1999, is $16,362,700. The consolidated amount of $16,138,400 shown in the present report is therefore within the available balance of the contingency fund.

3. The Fifth Committee, in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 42/211, may proceed to recommend to the General Assembly the appropriation of the required amounts under the relevant sections of the programme budget, as follows:

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Section		*Thousands of United States dollars*
1.	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	983.0
7.	International Court of Justice	591.9
9.	Economic and social affairs	905.6
12.	Environment	236.9
26.	Public information	1 151.4
27.	Administrative services	1 137.5
29.	Jointly financed administrative activities	517.6
30.	Special expenses	2 206.9
31.	Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance	8 000.0
32.	Staff assessment	407.6
	Total expenditures	**16 138.4**

4. Should the Committee proceed as above, it should also request the General Assembly to note that a balance of $224,300 would remain in the contingency fund.

Annex

Contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates

	Fifth Committee meeting	*Thousands of United States dollars*
United Nations reform: measures and proposals: The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations (A/C.5/54/60)	62nd of the resumed 54th session and 39th, 40th, XX of 55th session	1 643.0
Analysis of the organizational structure and the personnel and technical resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations Secretariat (A/54/520/Add.1)	69th and 70th of the resumed 54th session and 39th, 40th and XX of 55th session	124.9
Global environment forum/special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/55/645/Add.1)	39th, 40th and XX of 55th session	236.9
Review of the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in all its aspects (A/C.5/54/65)	2nd, 6th, 39th, 40th, XX	1 628.9
Safety and security of United Nations personnel (A/55/494)	37th, 38th, XX	2 466.4
Revised estimates under section 7, International Court of Justice (A/C.5/55/21)	33rd, XX	720.7
The critical situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/C.5/55/26)	39th, 40th, XX	800.0
Review of the Information Systems Coordination Committee (A/55/619)	41st, XX	517.6
Capital master plan (A/55/117 and Add.1)	39th, 40th, XX	8 000.0
Total		**16 138.4**

United Nations A/C.5/55/35

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 December 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Fifth Committee
Agenda item 117
Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Recosting of outstanding statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In the first performance report (A/55/645 and Corr.1 and Add. 1), attention was drawn to the outstanding revised estimates and statements of programme budget implications for which the Fifth Committee had yet to take action. In accordance with established practice, these had not been taken into account in the recosting of the programme budget for 2000-2001, but once the Fifth Committee had approved these items at initial rates, they would be recosted within the approved costing parameters utilized in the first performance report. Accordingly, the formerly outstanding items have now been recosted, as a result of which the overall increased/decreased requirements for relevant sections of the programme budget affected would be as follows:

Section	*Thousands of United States dollars*
3. Political affairs	(9.7)
7. International Court of Justice	(118.5)
27. Administrative services	0.2
30. Special expenses	(3.1)
32. Staff assessment	40.4
Total	**(90.7)**
Offset to income section 1, Income from staff assessment	40.4

2. The Fifth Committee may wish to note this recosting and to reflect the related adjustments to be made to expenditure and income sections in the revised appropriation for the biennium 2000-2001 to be recommended to the General Assembly.

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